

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 00382 301416Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----310733Z 052907 /15
R 301330Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3052
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0382

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SREF, CVIS, OGEN, UR
SUBJ: MARCH LENINGRAD JEWISH EMIGRATION SCENE: SLOWDOWN

REF: (A) LENINGRAD 0233, (B) 76 LENINGRAD 2034

1. SUMMARY. MARCH PROVED A RELATIVELY QUIET BUT POOR MONTH FOR JEWISH REFUSENIK COMMUNITY OF LENINGRAD. THE COMMUNITY WAS ENLARGED TO 102 FAMILY NAMES BY OVIR'S ISSUANCE OF FIVE NEW REFUSALS. ONLY ONE REFUSENIK OBTAINED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST TIME REFUSALS WERE ISSUED BY LENINGRAD OVIR DURING MARCH 1977 TO: YURIY KAROLIN, FNU GAMBURG, STANISLAV YARZHEMBOVSKIY, DAVID KARLIN, AND ABRAM KOGAN. KAROLIN AND GAMBURG RECEIVED REFUSALS FOR ARMY SERVICE; KARLIN AND KOGAN FOR THEIR PREVIOUS WORK. IGOR BREGER, WHOSE APPLICATION TO EMIGRATE WAS FIRST REFUSED IN MARCH 1974 OBTAINED PERMISSION, BUT HE WAS ASKED TO CHANGE HIS DECLARED DESTINATION FROM THE UNITED STATES TO ISRAEL.

3. THREE OF THE NEW REFUSENIKS ARE ESPECIALLY HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONS. KOGAN, A PHYSICIST WITH THE DEGREE
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OF PHYSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, STILL WORKS AT THE STEKLOV RESEARCH INSTITUTE. YARZHEMBOVSKIY IS AN OCEANOGRAPHER, NOW A "WORKER", AND KARLIN, NOW UNEMPLOYED, IS A JURIST. HE WILL LIKELY REPLACE VALERIY SEGAL (REFTEL A) AS THE REFUSENIKS' LEGAL ADVISER. SEGAL, INCIDENTALLY, HAS NOT YET DEPARTED, HAVING CHOSEN RATHER TO ENGAGE THE AUTHORITIES IN A

LEGAL STRUGGLE OVER THE REQUIREMENT TO PAY A 500 RUBLE
FEE FOR RENUNCIATION OF SOVIET CITIZENSHIP.

4. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT VLADIMIR SVERDLIN WAS
PREDICTABLY FOUND GUILTY OF POSSESSION OF A QUANTITY
OF BULLETS (REFTEL B), BUT HIS ONE YEAR SENTENCE WAS
MADE "CONDITIONAL" (I.E., PROBATIONAL), ON GOOD
BEHAVIOR FOR THE PERIOD OF THE SENTENCE. HE IS NOW
AT LIBERTY TO THE BEST OF POST'S KNOWLEDGE.

5. COMMENT: LENINGRAD REFUSENIKS CONTINUE TO LOOK HOPE-
FULLY TO THE LONG TERM, BEYOND THE VANCE VISIT TO THE BEL-
GRADE MEETING AND INTO A FUTURE DEFINED BY DECLASSIFICA-
TION SCHEDULES AS LONG AS FIFTEEN YEARS. EARLIER IN
MARCH POST HEARD REPORTS THAT REFUSENIKS WERE BUSILY
COMPILING "AUTOBIOGRAPHIES" AND ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN
WRITTEN COPIES OF THEIR REFUSALS FROM OVIR FOR SOME
UNDEFINED USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE BELGRADE CSCE
MEETING. BUT THIS ACTIVITY HAS REPORTEDLY STOPPED.
END COMMENT.
NEUBERT

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